

Byzantine Eschatology: Views on Death and the Last Things,
8th to 15th Centuries

Dumbarton Oaks Symposium 1999

The annual Byzantine Studies symposium at Dumbarton Oaks was held April 30 to May 2, 1999. Under the direction of Professors George Dennis and Ioli Kalavrezou, an international group of seventeen scholars investigated the beliefs and practices of the inhabitants of the Byzantine Empire concerning death and what follows death on both the individual and the cosmic levels. The speakers addressed the liturgical, legal, popular, and artistic aspects of funerals and burial, as well as the remembrance of the departed in homilies and letters of consolation. Other topics included what the Byzantines believed happened to the soul after death, its journey and judgment, and its ability to intercede for the living. The theology of death, resurrection, apocalyptic elements, and the notion of final restoration concluded the program. Selected papers will be published in *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 55 (2001).

Program

Death and Burial

George Dennis, The Catholic University of America

Death in Byzantium

Joseph Munitiz, Former Master of Campion Hall, Oxford

The Predetermination of Death: A Problem for the Byzantines

Ioli Kalavrezou, Harvard University

Anticipating Death: Art and Interaction in the Private Sphere

Patrick Viscuso, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

Death in Late Byzantine Canon Law

Funerary Space and Ritual

Elena Velkovska, Pontifical Liturgical Institute Anselmianum, Rome

Funeral Rites according to Byzantine Liturgical Sources

Diane Touliatos, University of Missouri, St. Louis
The Funeral Music of Byzantium

Slobodan Ćurčić, Princeton University
Church, Cell, Tomb: Aspects of Later Byzantine Patronage

Remembering the Departed

Panagiotis Agapitos, University of Cyprus
Public and Private Death in Psellos: Maria Skleraina and Styliane Psellaina

Margaret Mullett, The Queen's University of Belfast
Literary Forms of Condolence

Margaret Alexiou, Harvard University
Modes of Lamentation: Ritual, Metaphor, and the Life Cycle

Nicholas Conostas, Harvard University
'To Sleep, Perchance to Dream': The Middle State of Souls in Patristic and Byzantine Literature

Theological and Ascetical Considerations

Gerhard Podskalsky, Theologische Hochschule Sankt Georgen, Frankfurt
Death and Resurrection in Byzantine Theology

Brian Daley, University of Notre Dame
The Dormition of Mary in Homilies and Legends as a Model for Christians

Alexander Golitzin, Marquette University
Earthly Angels and Heavenly Men: Niketas Stethatos and the Tradition of 'Interiorized Apocalyptic' in Eastern Christian Ascetical and Mystical Literature

Life after Death

John Wortley, University of Manitoba
Some Byzantine Notions concerning the After-Life: The Evidence of 'Beneficial Tales'

Nancy Ševčenko, Rutgers University
The Soul from Death to Judgment in Byzantine Art

Alexander Alexakis, Columbia University/Dumbarton Oaks
Was There Life Beyond the Life-Beyond? Byzantine Ideas on Transmigration of Souls and Final Restitution